

## News Release

For Immediate Release: Wednesday, November 17, 2004 Media Contact: Stephen McDonald 801-538-7099 Rebecca Ward 801-538-6682

## **Utah Department of Health Lifts All Flu Vaccine Restrictions**

Additional Vaccine Arrives in Utah Earlier than Anticipated

(Salt Lake City, UT) – Due to recent vaccine shipments arriving throughout Utah, the Utah Department of Health (UDOH) has lifted all restrictions for receiving the flu vaccine. Anyone over six months of age can now get vaccinated.

In a recent assessment, the UDOH determined that some Utah health care providers have received additional supplies of flu vaccine sooner than anticipated. Many public health departments and some private health care providers have received the balance of their original flu vaccine orders within the last 48 hours. Further vaccine shipments are estimated to arrive over the next several weeks and into January.

"Due to the great success reaching most people in the priority groups and the recent arrival of additional flu vaccine, there is no need to wait until after Thanksgiving to remove the restrictions," says Linda Abel, Immunization Program Manager, UDOH. The UDOH recommends that all health care providers who have flu vaccine offer it to any individual wanting vaccination, not just to those in the previous priority groups. The UDOH will continue to encourage individuals at high risk for flu complications to get the vaccine as soon as possible.

Individuals seeking flu shots are encouraged to contact their health care provider, local health department, or call the UDOH's Immunization Hotline at 1-800-275-0659. Physicians wanting additional information about flu vaccine may contact the Utah Immunization Program at 801-538-9450.

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The mission of the Utah Department of Health is to protect the public's health through preventing avoidable illness, injury, disability and premature death; assuring access to affordable, quality health care; and promoting healthy lifestyles.